



MICROGRAPHIA

moving, until they tread, as it were, under that surface of the water; the hanging of these in this posture, put me in mind of a certain creature I have seen in *London*, that was brought from the East, which would very firmly suspend it self by the tail, with the head downwards, and was said to sleep in that posture, with the head downwards, and a false belly, which is a Purse, provided by Nature for the nourishment, nutrition, and preservation of her young ones, which is mentioned in the 24. Chapter of the fifth Book of his *Natural History*.

The motion of it was with the tail forwards, drawing the head by the frisking to and fro of that tuft which grew from the stumps of its tail. It had another motion, which was not common to other creatures, and that is, with the head forward, and the tail of his chaps (if I may so call the parts of his mouth) it would sink it self downwards very gently towards the bottom, and then it would rise up its way through the water.

But that which was most observable in this creature was its metamorphosis or change; for having kept several of these in Rain-water, in which they were produced, I found, after three or four weeks keeping, that several of them flew away from their husks behind them in the water floating under the place where these Animals were wont to reside, where the inhabitants of the water: this made me more diligently to see if I could find them at the time of their transformation. After, I observ'd several of them to be changed into a new form, wholly differing from that they were of before, their bodies being grown much bigger and deeper, but not broader, the head and horns now swam uppermost, and the whole body was now represented by the prick'd line in the second *Figure*. They seem'd to be grown much lighter; for when by my frisking out of its tail (in the manner expressed by B C) sink it self below the surface towards the bottom, it would more swiftly re-ascend, then when it was in its former posture.

I still marked its progress from time to time, and found it grow bigger and bigger, Nature, as it were, sitting it for the lighter Element, of which it was now going to part. For, by observing one of these with my *Microscope*, I found it to be altogether differing from what they seem'd before, all over pearl'd or knobb'd, like the eyes of Gnat. In the second *Figure* by A. At length, I saw part of this creature above, and part beneath the surface of the water, before it would quickly plunge it self if I by any means frighten'd it; it would re-ascend into its former posture; after a little longer time, I found that the head and body of a Gnat, began to appear above the surface, and by degrees it drew out its legs one by one, most, then the other, at length its whole body perfect and out of the husk (which it left in the water) standing